

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20 NEA-10 EUR-25

SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /182 W
----- 126066

R 170745Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8140

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED FOR UPPER HOUSE OFFICER AND COMMITTEE
CHAIARMANSHIP ELECTION

1. THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN POSTED FOR THE OCTOBER 18
BALLOTING FOR UPPER HOUSE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN. THERE
IS ONLY ONE CANDIDATE FOR MOST POSITIONS, SO THERE WILL BE FEW
CONTESTS. THE SOLE CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMAN IS FORMER FOREIGN
MINISTER TRAN VAN LAM, WHO LED THE "WHITE ELEPHANT" TICKET IN THE
AUGUST 26 ELECTION. THE TWO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN SLOTS ARE BEING SOUGHT
BY TRAN TRUNG DUNG AND PHAM NHU PHIEU BOTH OF WHOM WERE RE-ELECTED
AUGUST 26 ON THE "DEMOCRACY" TICKET. SINCE THERE ARE NO OTHER
CANDIDATES FOR THESE TWO POSITIONS, DUNG AND PHIEU ARE ASSURED OF
VICTORY, THE ONLY QUESTION BEING WHICH WILL BE FIRST DEPUTY
CHAIRMAN AND WHICH SECOND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. THIS DEPENDS ON
WHICH GETS MORE VOTES.

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2. MOST OTHER UNCONTESTED SLOTS ARE SOUGHT BY ADMINISTRATION LOYALISTS. AN IMPORTANT EXCEPTION IS THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP, FOR WHICH INCUMBENT NGUYEN DUY TAI HAS BEEN NOMINATED BY BOTH OPPOSITION AND PRO-ADMINISTRATION SENATORS. ALTHOUGH OPPOSITIONIST IN BACKGROUND, TAI IS NOW FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE ADMINISTRATION. HE HAS RECENTLY DISSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM THE BUDDHIST PARLIAMENTARIANS LIAISON GROUP (BPLG), NOW COMPOSED ALMOST WHOLLY OF MILITANTLY ANTI-GVN FIGURES. THE ONLY OTHER MAJOR EXCEPTION IS THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE HEADED AGAIN BY INCUMBENT TON TAHT DINH, THE SOLE NOMINEE. HE HAS ALSO BEEN PUT FORWARD BY SENATORS OF DIFFERENT CAMPS. A FORMER GENERAL, DINH REMAINS IN THE GOOD GRACES OF THE ADMINISTRATION DESPITE A SOMEWHAT VOLATILE ORIENTATION POLITICALLY.

3. THE CONTESTED POSITIONS INCLUDED THE ECONOMY COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP FOR WHICH INDEPENDENT LILY GROUP SENATOR LA THANH NGHE IS RUNNING AGAINST NEWLY ELECTED "DEMOCRACY" SENATOR NGUYEN VAN AN AND THE LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP FOR WHICH RE-ELECTED "WHITE ELEPHANT" SENATOR DONA VAN CUU CHALLENGES THE INCUMBENT, LILY GROUP SENATOR LE CHAU LOC. THESE SLOTS WILL PROBABLY BE WON BY AN AND CUU, IN A PROBABLE ADMINISTRATION LANDSLIDE.

4. NEWLY ELECTED PRO ADMINISTRATION SENATORS TRAN MINH TUNG AND CAO VAN TUONG BOTH FORMER MINISTERS ARE NOT AMONG THE CANDIDATES. TUNG WHO HEADED THE "DEMOCRACY" TICKET, HAD OCCASIONALLY BEEN MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR THE SENATE CHAIRMANSHIP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UPPER HOUSE, ELECTION CANDIDATES, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON18078
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731027/aaaaatjq.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Nov-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <27-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED FOR UPPER HOUSE OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHIARMANSHIP ELECTION
TAGS: PINT, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005